

Spring 1-15-2014

ENG 1092G-098: Composition and Literature

Rosemary Buck
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2014



Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Buck, Rosemary, "ENG 1092G-098: Composition and Literature" (2014). *Spring 2014*. 40.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2014/40

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2014 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spring 2014 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

ENGLISH 1092G--COMPOSITION AND LITERATURE

Dr. Buck, Professor

Office: Coleman Hall 3040

Telephone: Office: 581-5012 (Please leave voice mail if I'm not there)

Mailbox: English Dept Office, Room 3155

Office Hours: MWF/8:00-10:50 and by appointment.

Textbooks: *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Writing*, 11th ed., by Kennedy and Gioia; *Writing Essays about Literature*, 7th ed., by Griffith; and *The Little, Brown Handbook*, 11th ed.

Taking notes in class is an important study skill that you are expected to have mastered when you enter college. You are responsible for recording the details of what gets discussed in every class. Everything that gets put on the board must be copied into your notes. You are responsible for the material covered in all handouts and textbooks. My job is to guide you through these materials, not replace them.

Course Objective

This composition and literature course is designed to develop your skills in critical thinking and analytical expression based on the reading of literary texts. This course will 1) introduce you to a variety of works of literature, 2) instruct you in the distinction of literary genres, 3) help you to become more sensitive and attentive readers, and 4) guide you in articulating--both in class discussion and in written discourse--a mature, informed reaction to literary works.

Course Requirements

The requirements of this course include two formal papers, daily folder writing assignments, and a final exam. Since this is a seminar, you will be required to discuss and present your work to the class throughout the semester. Paper I (5 pages minimum) will be an analysis and interpretation of selected short fiction texts based on elements we have discussed in class; Paper II (7 pages minimum) will be a close reading explication of a poem of your choice (with a research component). The final exam will test your understanding of the poetry unit (one-hour) and your understanding of the drama unit (one hour). Paper and exam grades will be based on what you have to say and how well you say it.

Folder Writing Assignments

You will need to purchase a paper folder for this class. That is where you will be keeping all your materials for each unit. Please always bring your folders to class.

Folder writing assignments (home and in-class) are a large part of this course. You should plan on spending two hours per class time that we meet on reading and folder writing you will do at home. A folder response is 2 pages in length and will be evaluated on how well the question/issue is thought out and developed. You must write in full sentences and in paragraphs (notes or fragments will not be accepted) and you must proofread your work. I will evaluate you on what you say that reflects your own unique critical thinking and connections you make about the texts (backed by your own logical argument), and I am especially interested in your discussion of individual details that you notice in the texts that maybe no one else has; in other words, I do not expect nor want to read folder assignments that all say the same thing about the text that is being discussed online. It is important that you come to class prepared with each assignment on the day they are assigned and due; students who come to class unprepared three times during the semester or who are absent from class on the day they are called on or who fail to show up for individual conferences will have the final grade lowered for the course.

Always keep your folder responses and writing in process (drafts, etc.) in your folder. You will turn everything in to me at the end of each unit (three times during the semester--see attached sheet for dates). At times, I may collect individual folder assignments (unannounced).

At-home folder assignments must be typed. In-class writing must be legible; if I cannot read your writing, I have no choice but to give a no-credit grade.

Specifications for Materials in the Writing Folder

--Each assignment should begin on a separate piece of paper labeled with your name, the date, and a title.

--In-class exercises not completed in class because of insufficient time should be completed at home if not collected in class.

--Your folder will be collected 3 times during the semester but all assignments must be completed when assigned because you will be expected to read them and discuss them at the next class meeting.

--Folder assignments may exhibit marginal or interlinear additions, one or more parts added later at the end, etc. However, folder assignment are not just notes; they should demonstrate well-thought out responses in complete sentences and well-formed paragraphs and must be proofread carefully before they are turned in. Sloppy, unreadable, unproofed, or incomplete folders will receive a failing grade.

--You are responsible for reading and taking careful notes on all texts assigned, even though we may not discuss them in class.

Attendance Policy See attached.

Tardiness

Please be on time for class; habitual tardiness is disruptive and disrespectful of other class members. I will be taking roll each morning as soon as class begins. If you come in late, it is your responsibility to notify me after class on the day you are late so that I take your name off the absence book. If you fail to notify me on the day you are late, you will be recorded as absent.

Late assignments

All written assignments must be submitted when due in class in print format; no late assignments will be accepted and no electronic versions will be accepted. Papers and folders are due when class begins on the designated dates. Make-up work will be permitted for excused absences only.

Typing and Presentation

Formal Papers I and II (all drafts) must be typed (double-spaced) in MLA (Modern Language Association) format. Home writing assignments must be typed; grammar exercises, reading notes you take on the texts, annotation exercises, and outlines may be handwritten.

Course Grading

The final course grade will be based on an average of the following grades.

Unit I = 33% (paper and all process writing 15%; folder writing 15%)

Unit II = 33% (paper and all process writing 15%; folder 15%)

Unit III = 33% (folder 10%; final exam 20%)

Please note that in order to receive a C or better for this course, you must do all the work and you must pass the final exam. Failure to complete any component of the course (including the final exam) will result in a no credit grade for the course. Students must demonstrate engagement in the course and in their own personal writing development. In order to pass this course, you must demonstrate your own serious and reflective critical thought and attention.

Scale for the course will always be 100-90% = A; 89-80% = B; 79-70% = C; 69-60% = D; below 60% = F

Electronic Devices

No electronic devices of any kind, including laptops, may be used at any time during class; they will be counted as a disruption in class and as an unethical use of information during oral work conducted in class. After three occasions, the student will be reported to the judicial affairs office. Anyone with an electronic device not stowed away and out of use during an exam or in-class writing assignment will receive an automatic F on the exam--no questions asked, no discussion. Anyone

who leaves class to use a phone may not reenter class--you must wait until class has ended to get your belongings.

Where to Go For Help with this Course

1. Come to see me in my office during my office hours and by appointment.
2. Go to the Writing Center, where graduate students can help you with planning, drafting, revising your papers. Their phone number is 581-5929. But note that **NO ONE** (not even the Writing Center, nor parents, nor tutors) may read, proofread, or edit your writing over the course of the semester; you may read sections of the paper **out loud** to someone for feedback but you must always keep your paper in your own hands so that you have control and responsibility over your own work.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible. If you require extra time on timed in-class writing or exams, you must present a documented letter from the Office of Disability Services.

Note also that students who have an ACT score in English of 14 or below, or who have no test scores on file with the university, must pass English 1000 before enrolling in English 1001G or 1002G. Students who are not sure of their status should consult the Director of Composition. Successful completion of 1001G or its equivalent is a prerequisite for enrollment in English 1002G or English 1092G.

Classroom Behavior

According to EIU policy established by the Judicial Affairs Office concerning classroom behavior, you are expected to remain seated at all times while class is in session, unless you have an emergency, because leaving and reentering class distracts other students from their learning and concentration. If you must leave class, you may not reenter until the class session is over to obtain your belongings. Please come to class with plenty of kleenex; that is not an excuse for leaving class.

Plagiarism

The English Department requires that instructors quote to all students the university's policy on plagiarism:

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work' (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)--has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of NC for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office. Respect for the work of others encompasses all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources. Use or reproduction of any material or ideas off the internet without proper documentation is considered plagiarism and will be penalized as above.

If you consult the internet at any time, you must always document individually each idea that you read.

Electronic Writing Portfolio

If you wish to submit a paper written in this class, unless you receive a final grade of A on the paper, you must see me before you submit your paper. You will be asked to revise and fix all technical problems, retype the paper and submit it to me in hard-copy format for approval before submitting the paper electronically.

What to Do in Case of Emergency

If we have an emergency in class, go promptly to inform Jean Toothman, Department Secretary (Room 3135) and Dana Ringuette, Chair (Room 3341) and dial 911.

COURSE READINGS

Please read and do the assignment before coming to class on the date given here.

Lit = Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Writing

Griffith = Writing Essays about Literature

Handbook = The Little, Brown Handbook

**This calendar should be used as a guideline. We may change some dates depending on the needs of the class.

UNIT I

WRITING ABOUT FICTION

- Jan 13 Introduction to the course and how you will be evaluated
- Jan 15 Why do we Read Literature? How do we Read Literature? Read all the following:
"Literature is Aesthetic," Griffith, p. 23-24
"Forming a Critical Perspective," Handbook, pp. 138-153 and pp. 131-133 and Lit, pp. 1914-1916
"Annotating while you Read," Lit, pp. 1912-13 and handout
Oral Assignment: Be prepared to discuss the following:
1. Why do we read literature (non-fiction essays, fiction short stories and novels, poetry, drama)? Classify and list as many different reasons as you can. What is the importance of reading literature in our lives? What is your response to people who say they never read literature?
2. What is a good working definition of active, critical reading? What strategies are employed in this method of reading?
3. Explain the method of annotating a text as a pre-writing strategy.
- Jan 17 Summary Writing vs Analytical (Interpretive) Writing; Focus on Theme
Read Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants" (handout)
(Think carefully about questions on the text; be ready to discuss them)
Read "How do We Interpret," Griffith, pp. 4-9
Read Cisneros, "The House on Mango Street," Lit, pp. 518-519.
Be ready to discuss questions (handout)
- Jan 20 Holiday
- Jan 22 Setting
Read T. Coraghessan Boyle, "Greasy Lake," Lit, pp. 125-132
Be ready to discuss questions, p. 132
Read Griffith, pp. 61-65 (setting); pp. 31-36 (theme)
Folder Writing #1 (summary/interpretive writing): Write a summary or interpretation (depending on your group) of "Greasy Lake."
Consult *Handbook*, pp. 134-135 and handout to review what summary writing is. Challenge is to avoid plagiarism (study handout).
- Jan 24 Character and Conflict
Read Olsen, "I Stand Here Ironing", Lit, pp. 607-612
Be prepared to discuss questions (handout)
Read Griffith, pp. 54-60 (characterization)
Folder Writing #2 (pre-writing strategy): Write out on 5 sheets of paper a detailed annotation of "I Stand Here Ironing"
Read Porter, "The Jilting of Granny Wetherall," pp. 79-85
Be prepared to discuss questions, pp. 85-86

Jan 27

Plot

Read Mason, "Shiloh", Lit, pp. 569-578

Be prepared to discuss questions (handout)

Read Griffith, pp. 44-53 (plot) and Lit, pp. 1932-1935

Folder Writing #3 (personal response writing): Write a personal response to "Shiloh"

Read Tolstoy, "The Death of Ivan Ilych," pp. 264-301 (take your own notes)

Be prepared to discuss questions, pp. 300-301

Jan 29

Point of View

Read Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues", Lit, pp. 51-73; be prepared to discuss questions, p. 73 (take your own notes on the story)

Symbol

Read Jackson, "The Lottery", pp. 247-255; be prepared to discuss questions, pp. 252-253 (take your own notes on the story)

Folder #4 (logical response writing)

Jan 31

What is an Essay? Writing a Formal Analysis on Short Fiction

Read Griffith, pp. 368-373; pp. 392-397; and Lit, pp. 1920-26; 1929-31.

Make sure you bring your textbook by Griffith to class

Preparation for in-class paper

Feb 3

In-class writing: **Formal Paper #1**

Go back and look over all your notes and annotations on the stories by Boyle, Porter, Olsen, Mason, Tolstoy, Baldwin, and Jackson. Come to class prepared to write for 50 minutes without consulting your texts. Memorize names of characters and important events in the plots. Pay attention and study details about descriptions of characters, settings, and symbols in the stories.

Feb 5-10

Individual Conferences

REVISION WEEK

No formal class--INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES

COME TO MY OFFICE (3040 Coleman Hall) AT YOUR APPOINTED TIME

This week you should be

1. Going to individual conferences
2. Revising your paper for content and clarity (Handbook, pp. 54-55; Lit, 1918-1919)
3. Editing your paper for sentence strength (Handbook, pp. 60-65 and exercises we did in class)
4. Proofreading your paper (Handbook, p. 66)
5. Typing a clean, final draft in MLA format

AND

PREPARING FOR THE POETRY UNIT

1. Look through your Literature anthology (pp. 1016-1103 and throughout the poetry section beginning on p. 631). Browse through it and read some poems at your leisure. Decide on a poem that you would like to work on for your formal paper (that has not been analyzed or discussed already in your book).

You must observe the following criteria for your selection:

- a. It must be a poem that is new to you and that you have never read before.
- b. Select a poem that you enjoy but that you do not fully understand, that still has some mystery to you, or that you're really puzzled about.
- c. Select a poem that intrigues you so much that you want to spend a lot of time with it.
- d. You must pick a poem (not song lyrics, or other subgenres)

- e. No one else may choose your poem for you.
2. On a sheet of paper, write the title of the poem, the author, and the page # it appears on in your textbook. Please hand this in to me on Feb 12.
3. Make a photocopy of your poem from your textbook. Do NOT reproduce a copy of the poem on-line.

Feb 12	Come back to class with your revised paper, typed to completion. Bring in poem selection. Writing Workshop.
Feb 14	Holiday
Feb 17	Writing Workshop
Feb 19	FINAL PAPER I AND FOLDER DUE.

ABSENCE POLICY

The university states in its attendance policy that you are expected to attend every class as scheduled because teaching/learning requires dialogue and when you are not there you do not engage in scholarship with others and you miss out on the logic presented in class (learning that cannot be adequately made up outside of class). University policy states that you are expected to participate actively in the learning process: this expectation means that it is your responsibility to read assignments, take careful notes on the reading, do homework exercises as assigned and provide those answers in class, volunteer responses in class, and ask questions about the material. Students who come to class do a lot of work, in other words, both oral and written, and so those who choose not to engage in that process merit taking the consequences.

There are consequences to not being in class.

1. 3 or 4 absences in the course will result in lowering of the final grade. With three absences, the final grade will be lowered by one-third. That means that if the final grade is a B on exams and papers, it will be lowered to a B-; if the final grade is a B-, it will be lowered to a C+. With four absences, the final grade will be lowered by one letter grade. If your average is a C in the course on exams and papers, your final grade in the course will be a D.
2. More than four absences in this course will result in failure of the course, regardless of grades received on papers or exams.
3. Because the university considers class time essential to a student's learning, students who have excessive absences (more than 4, excused or unexcused) will be advised to withdraw from the class in order to facilitate their success when they take the class over again at a later date.
4. Only students with an excused absence on the day of any scheduled exam may take an alternative exam, of different format, within the week of the scheduled exam.
5. I will expect you to find out from someone in the class what you've missed so that you'll be prepared for the next class meeting. Worksheets will only be distributed once; it is your responsibility to photocopy assignments from another student if you are absent.
6. Please do not tell me your reasons for not coming to class unless they are excusable according to university policy and please do not ask me what documentation you need. I do not grant permissions, in other words, for any absence. It is your responsibility to make your own decisions and to supply the best documentation you can.
7. According to university policy, there are reasons why you may be excused from class. They are listed below. However, they will be excused only if you follow the procedures outlined here in the syllabus.
 - For any excused reason, you must notify me by leaving a message on my voice mail at 581-5012 (not email) before class begins on the day of your absence.
 - When you return to class at the next class meeting, you must bring me a sheet of paper with the following information: your name, the date of your absence, the reason for your absence, and attached documentation that documents proof of why you weren't in class. Any absence without appropriate documentation will not be excused.

Definition of excused absence on back

Definition, according to university policy, of an excused absence:

1. University obligation, in which case you will need to present me with a letter at the beginning of the semester explaining the purpose and date of your upcoming absence.
2. Your medical illness or emergency, in which case you will need to notify me by leaving a message on my voice mail at 581-5012 (not email) before class begins on the day of your absence. Routine medical appointments or non-emergency medical appointments should not be scheduled during class time; the health services on campus are here so that you will not have to leave town for medical reasons. In addition, students experiencing personal problems should seek help immediately through the counseling services provided on campus so that personal problems don't interfere with the responsibility of being in class.

Today's Date _____

ABSENCE SHEET

Your Name _____

Course Number _____

Date of Absence _____

Did you call 581-5012 before class on date of your absence? ☐ Yes

☐ No

Is this an excused absence? ☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please attach documentation.